

Dick

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Dick:

On the Forms of Interagency Intelligence Production  
(NFIB 14.2/5, 12 March 1980) --

1. The SRP's suggested redefinition of an IIM is -- except for one point -- a good change. Its first sentence, however, should be changed to read: "The IIM is an assessment of a foreign situation of high ~~but-only-indirect~~ policy concern to the US." I feel strongly that in that definition, and in the chart, we should avoid the use of "indirect policy concerns" to the US. If something is only of "indirect" policy interest, NIC shouldn't be doing it. If "indirect" were so deleted, then NIE's and IIM's would be differentiated (at the outset, that is) only by "highest" and "high" importance.
2. Except for that one point I would vote for accepting the present document -- on the understanding that (as SRP's para. 4.a) there would be need to tolerate remaining ambiguities and that C/NIC had power-of-attorney to counteract the preference for IIM's.
3. I can appreciate the interest in a memo of definitions, but in the knowledge that these things cannot be defined and differentiated neatly in practice, whatever the parent document says. Whether relatively more NIE's appear will not result as much from these definitions, as from NIC decision to do NIE's, the degree to which there is or is not truly an intelligence community, the degree to which senior interventions complicate the life histories of NIE's, and the quality-satisfaction quotient among prime customers of the NIE's.

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